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wastefulness and the financial folly of the high rates of speed which have led to so many appalling disasters. We are glad to find our plea for the forests aided by Mr. Vose's decided preference of coke as fuel for locomotives. The grounds for this preference are so manifest and strong, that only the haphazard, irresponsible management which has carried so many of our railroad corporations to, or beyond, the brink of ruin, can persist in a foolish prodigality which threatens to render our whole country as bare as Sahara. Only in one respect can we find fault with this book. It is defaced by errata, which constitute nearly six closely printed pages. The author tells us that he was in Missouri, and could not read his proofs. But some one should have read them, and they do not show even the lowest measure of care. Many of the errata are such as a child could have corrected. For instance, in two consecutive lines we have the startling equations, $44 \times 2 = 80$, and $54\frac{1}{2} \times 3 = 103\frac{1}{2}$. The work will doubtless reach another edition, and, we trust, may then be printed with an accuracy adequate to its merit.

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21. — *Key to the Geology of the Globe: an Essay, designed to show that the present Geographical, Hydrographical, and Geological Structures, observed on the Earth's Crust, were the Result of Forces acting according to fixed, demonstrable Laws, analogous to those governing the Development of Organic Bodies.* By RICHARD OWEN, M. D., Professor of Geology and Chemistry in the University of Nashville. Illustrated by Maps and Diagrams. Nashville: Stevenson and Owen; W. T. Berry & Co. 1857. 8vo. pp. 256.

NATURAL science, in all its departments, has passed the stage of minute analysis, and the work that now remains for its cultivators is the synthesis of its elements and its forces, and the development of analogy or identity where it has been unsuspected. To trace out the filaments of the Divine unity, which blend and diverge, cross and intertwine, through all space and time, is the endeavor of the leading minds, alike in the sciences that girdle the universe, and in those concerned with the formations and organisms of our own planet. Professor Owen's work is a bold and able essay of this type. *Unity of plan and uniformity of causes* are the germinal ideas of his system. He finds in the original condition of the earth and the forces necessarily acting upon it the proximate causes of the series of changes of which it has been the theatre. He traces marks of sameness in the processes of inorganic formation, and of organic life. He refers observed laws of

hygiene among existing plants and animals to the very geological and climatic causes which have left analogous records of their activity in fossil forms. He accounts on similar grounds for the distinguishing characteristics of the various races of men, past and present, as well as for the peculiarities of the Fauna and the Flora of each separate locality. Finally, under the title of "Ethical Geology," he deduces from the premises laid down in preceding chapters "practical suggestions as to the most effective means of improving the physical, mental, and moral condition of the human race." As to the accuracy in detail of some parts of this treatise, we do not feel competent to speak positively; but we have detected no inaccuracy, and the author's evident integrity of purpose conciliates our confidence for his statements of facts. As to some portions of his theory we are by no means prepared to agree with him. But the aim of the entire work is in the direction in which alone truth is to be sought, and, whatever currency and acceptance it may gain now, we have little doubt that half a century hence it will be found to have anticipated—in some cases dimly and vaguely—conclusions now received with incredulity, which will then have become axioms. Yet more, the book breathes, throughout, the spirit of a sincere lover of and seeker after truth, and of one whose researches are conducted under a profound sense of the Divine Being and Providence, and with an earnest desire to render praise to God and benefit to man.

22.— *Villas and Cottages. A Series of Designs prepared for Execution in the United States.* By CALVERT VAUX, late Downing and Vaux, Newburgh, on the Hudson. Illustrated by 300 Engravings. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1857. 8vo. pp. 318.

ABOUT a third part of this work is occupied by a preliminary chapter "On the Design, Construction, and Detail of Country-Houses." The desiderata of the dwelling-house as to light, heat, ventilation, drainage, health, comfort, and beauty are carefully considered, and the means of meeting them designated; the comparative merit of building materials, and of materials and modes of decoration, is discussed in a way that both interests and satisfies us; and the entire chapter is full of suggestions, which might make every owner of a house a quarter of a century old sorry that his house is not yet to be built. The residue of the volume is occupied with plans, descriptions, and estimates of houses in a great diversity of style, and ranging in cost from fifteen hundred to sixty thousand dollars. Most of these are houses actually built or contracted for; others are studies by the author. The entire work is